

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00323 01 OF 02 160734Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 AF-06

EUR-12 ARA-10 EA-09 SCCT-01 (ISO) W

----- 126862

R 151850Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3379

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 0323

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW, JANUARY 7-13.

SUMMARY: UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND ANGOLA OAU DEVELOPMENTS WERE PRINCIPAL US-RELATED THEMES ON SAUDI EDITORIAL PAGES JANUARY 7-13. SC COMMENT PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH WHAT US WOULD DO. ANGOLA COMMENT VARIED FROM CONDEMNATION OF SOVIET AND CUBAN PARTICIPATION TO DISAPPOINTMENT OVER US REFUSAL TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY AND LACK OF STRONG AFRICAN RESPONSE. THIRD EDITORIAL TOPIC WAS THE RAPIDLY DISINTEGRATING LEBANESE SITUATION WITH MOUNTING BELIEF IN NECESSITY FOR UNITED ARAB ACTION, POSSIBLY LED BY SAUDI ARABIA. OTHER SUBJECTS WERE VARIETY OF OPINIONS ON WHO WAS BEHIND OPEC KIDNAPPINGS AND A VIEW ON JOINT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JIDDA 00323 01 OF 02 160734Z

US/SOVIET POLICY TOWARD INDIA AND PRC. END SUMMARY.

1. UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF SC DISCUSSION ON
JANUARY 12, EDITORIALS OFFERED FOLLOWING SPECULATION
(AND ADVICE) ON THE SESSION.

A. AN "OBSERVER" IN JANUARY 7 AL-BILAAD - "THE
AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 242, WHICH THE PLO WILL SUGGEST,
CAN BE WON EASILY IN THE COUNCIL, BUT ISRAEL COUNTS ON
THE U.S. TO PREVENT THIS VIA USE OF THE VETO...PALESTINIANS
VIEW AMBIVALENT US POSITION WITH CAUTION."

B. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS, JANUARY 8 - "IF THE
U.S. IS PLANNING TO USE ITS VETO...AS A MODERATING
FORCE..., IT WILL FIND MANY SYMPATHISERS IN THE ARAB
WORLD AND ELSEWHERE....NOTHING SHORT OF AN INTELLIGENT
VOTING PATTERN BY THE U.S. COULD BREAK THE VICIOUS CIRCLE
IN THE MIDDLE EAST....TEL AVIV HAS TAKEN WASHINGTON'S
SUPPORT...FOR GRANTED SINCE 1948 WITH THE
SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION OF RIGID STANDS BY ISRAEL ON ALL
PEACE MOVES OVER THE YEARS...IT IS QUITE TIMELY NOW
FOR THE U.S., THROUGH A CHANGE IN ITS VOTING PATTERNS,
TO SERVE NOTICE ON THE ISRAELIS THAT THE SWEET GRAPES
OF DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT OF OLD COULD AT TIMES TURN
SOUR....WHAT THE PALESTINIANS ARE ENTITLED TO GET
FROM THE WORLD, IN ATONEMENT FOR THE MANY SINS COMMITTED
AGAINST THEM, IS A SHOW OF GENUINE SYMPATHY. IF THE U.S.
COULD USE ITS VETO POTENTIAL TO REFLECT A TOUCH OF
SYMPATHY..., INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL LOPSIDED SUPPORT
FOR ISRAEL, ONE COULD REASONABLY EXPECT THE PALESTINIANS
NOT ONLY TO COOPERATE WITH PEACE EFFORT BUT ALSO TO
EXERCISE A CATALYTIC INFLUENCE TOWARDS THIS END."

C. SAME SOURCE ON JANUARY 11 - "ISRAEL IS FAVORED
WITH OVERWHELMING SUPPORT WITHIN CONGRESS AND IT IS
IN THE GOOD GRACES OF THE PRESS AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
IN THAT COUNTRY. THEREFORE THE USG...MUST GROPE ITS WAY
WITH GREAT CAUTION....THUS, ANY SETTLEMENT..., EVEN IF IT
FAVORS THE ARABS IN REALITY, MUST BE SOLD TO THE ISRAELIS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 JIDDA 00323 01 OF 02 160734Z

BY THEIR AMERICAN FRIENDS AS THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS, AS
THE BEST THAT COULD BE DONE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES."

D. AN "OBSERVER" IN JANUARY 13 AL-BILAAD - "WHAT
PALESTINIANS WANT FROM THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THEIR POLITICAL RIGHTS. THEY DON'T
CARE WHETHER THIS COMES THROUGH AN AMENDMENT TO
RESOLUTIONS 242 OR 338 OR THROUGH ANY OTHER MEANS."

IN A LONG PIECE IN UKA'AZ DAILY JANUARY 10, RIDA LARY CALLS UPON THE PALESTINIANS TO REFRAIN FROM "INVOLVEMENT IN ANY VENTURES OUTSIDE OF PATEST NEBZX AND TO CONCENTRATE UPON "CREATION OF A POLITICAL ENTITY." "SO FAR THERE IS NO POLITICAL ORGANIZATION THAT REALLY REPRESENTS THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE....THE PALESTINIANS' SUCCESS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE WILL NOT LEAD TO RESTORATION OF USURPED LANDS UNLESS IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY DIRECT PRESSURE INSIDE PALESTINE, IN THE FORM OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY ACTIONS THAT WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ASSUME ITS DUTIES AS A STATE."

2. ANGOLA/OAU MEETING.

CASTIGATING THE US SENATE FOR RESERVATIONS OVER GIVING ASSISTANCE ANGOLA, FADL ABD AL-MAWLA IN JANUARY 8 IQRA'S WEEKLY STATES, "WE WOULD LIKE AMERICA TO CONTINUE ITS ROLE AS THE REAL DETERRING FORCE AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. THIS IS NOT ONLY BECAUSE SHE WOULD ENDANGER STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE WORLD IF SHE RELINQUISHED THIS ROLE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE SHE WOULD JEOPARDIZE HER OWN SECURITY."

TWO EDITORIALS DECRIED LACK OF STRONG AND UNIFIED AFRICAN CONDEMNATION OF ROLE OF SOVIET UNION AND CUBA. FAROUK LUQMAN IN JANUARY 8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY, ARAB NEWS, WRITING UNDER TITLE "WHAT DOES CUBA WANT?" "IT IS STRANGE TO HEAR SO FEW VOICES COMING OUT OF AFRICA DENOUNCING THIS KIND OF BLANTANT FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AN AFRICAN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 JIDDA 00323 01 OF 02 160734Z

COUNTRY...WHY COULD NOT SOME AFRICAN LEADERS STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT CLEARLY AND BRAVELY AGAINST SUCH A LARGE SCALE AND WELL-ORGANIZED INVASION OF ANOTHER AFRICAN NATION IN THE MAKING." AND AHMAD MAHMOUD IN JANUARY 12 AL-MADINA DAILY, "WHILE MOST AFRICAN NATIONS STRONGLY DENOUNCED US INTERFERENCE IN VIETNAM IN THE '60'S, MANY AFRICAN NATIONAL NOWADAYS KEEP SILENT OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL INTERVENTION." HE SEES THIS SURRENDER AS A "COMPLETE LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE WESTERN CAMP LET BY THE U.S.....NO ONE WANTS TO BE ON THE SIDE THAT EASILY ABANDONS ITS COMMITMENTS" (REFERENCE TO VIETNAM).

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00323 02 OF 02 160718Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 AF-06

EUR-12 ARA-10 EA-09 SCCT-01 (ISO) W

----- 126858

R 151850Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3380

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 0323

USIAC

3. LEBANON.

BY END OF WEEK THIS WAS MAJOR STRAING NEWS STORY WITH MENTION OF RISING NEED FOR CONCERTED ARAB ACTION, AND INFERRING THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS THE ONE ARAB NATION CAPABLE OF ORCHESTRATING A SOLUTION. EDITORIALY, AHMAD MAHMOUD IN JANUARY 13 AL-MADINA DAILY, MENTIONING RECENT VISITS HERE BY VARIOUS LEBANESE LEADERS, SAYS, "SACRED BY FOREIGN INTERVENTION, THOSE LEADERS...CAME TO THIS COUNTRY IN QUEST OF HELP IN ARRANGING FOR A GATHERING BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE INCAPABLE OF GETTING TOGETHER ON THEIR OWN." IN EARLIER JANUARY 11 AL-MADINA, SAME WRITER STATES THAT THE REAL REASON BEHIND THE FIGHTING IS NOW CLEAR - "GETTING THE PALESTINIANS OUT OF LEBANON." OTHERS DISAGREED. "KARIIM" IN JANUARY 12 AR-RIYADH DAILY SEES CURRENT LEBANESE PROBLEM AS "YARDSTICK FOR INTER-ARAB RELATIONS AND MORE ACCURATELY FOR THE VALIDITY OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE." CHIEF EDITOR TURKI

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JIDDA 00323 02 OF 02 160718Z

SUDAIRI IN JANUARY 7 AR -RIYADH INTERPRETS "WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEBANON AS A PAN-ARAB PROBLEM THAT ENTITLES THE ARABS TO INTERFERE, EVEN BY FORCE"...ARE THE ARABS WAITING FOR THE AMERICANS, RUSSIANS, AND FRENCH TO GIVE THEIR OPINIONS ON HOW TO DIVIDE UP LEBANON?"

4. OPEC KIDNAPPINGS

FOUR COMPLETELY DIFFERENT VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED AS TO WHO WAS BEHIND THE EVENT. AHMAD MAHMOUD IN JANUARY 7 AL-MADINA DAILY REGRETS THAT SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE ARABS AND BRANDS THEM CRIMINALS "NO MATTER WHETHER THEY WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE CIA, THE KGB, OR THE ARAB LEFT." ABD AL-RAHIIM NASSAR IN JANUARY 9 AL-YAMAMA WEEKLY MAINTAINS THE "INDUSTRIAL STATES HIRED THE CRIMINAL CARLOS...TO HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES." "KARIIM" IN AR-RIYADH OF JANUARY 10 IMPLIES THE LIBYANS WRE RESPONSIBLE, WHILE AHMAD SHARIF AR-RIFA'I WIN JANUARY 11 UKA'AZ DAILY SEES INCIDENT AS "AN INTERGRAL PART OF A COMMUNIST LIQUIDATION PLOT TO CAUSE FEAR AND DISSENTION IN PAN-ARAB RELATIONS."

5. US/USSR AGREEMENT ON POLICY TOWARD INDIA AND PRC. RIDA LARY IN JANUARY 9 UKA'AZ DAILY CLAIMS US AND USSR HAVE REACHED COMMON AGREEMENT "TO CONTAIN PEKING'S IDOLOGICAL EXPANSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA," BY SUPPORTING MAINTENANCE OF THE LEADERSHIP STATUS QUO IN INDIA "AS ANY CHANGE WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO TIES WITH CHINA....CHINA, IN AN EFFORT TO COUNTERACT THIS MOVE, IS STRENGTHENING HER TIES WITH EUROPE."

6. FINAL NOTES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST:

LEADING SAUDI WEEKLY IQRA'A,CURRENTLY RUNNING LONG EXCERPTS FROM NOAM CHOMSKY'S BOOK, PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MOHAMMED ZIDAN PIECE ON THE "THE ARAB PENINSULA AND THE JEWS," IN WHICH HE OFFERS REPLY TO WHY SAUDI ARABIA CANNOT AGREE WITH US STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 JIDDA 00323 02 OF 02 160718Z

ON DISCRIMINATORY NON-US BOYCOTT PRACTICES, WAS REPRINTED AS BACKPAGE EDITORIAL IN JANUARY 9 YAMAMA WEEKLY. ARTICLE PREVIOUSLY APPEARED IN NOVEMBER 26 ISSUE OF AL-BILAAD DAILY AND WAS REPORTED IN 75 JIDDA

7917.

SABBAGH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA00323
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760016-1071
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760155/aaaabwkq.tel
Line Count: 279
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mendozsm
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by mendozsm>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, SA
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006